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# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

782
DESP. NO.

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 15, 1954
DATE

REF : Embassy Despatch 525, December 18, 1953

714.00 CIA COM FCA LAB AG MAR 16 1954

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| | ARA-4 | DC/R-2 CLI-6 EUR/K-1 UNA-4 |
| | REC'D 3/17 | INFO OTHER CIA-7 COM-8 FCA-10 LAB-3 AG-5 AIR-3 ARMY-3 NAVY-3 ISA-2 TAR-2 TA-3 |

SUBJECT: Chronology of 1953 Events in Guatemala

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request, or additional copies

For convenience of reference, there is enclosed a Chronology of the principal events of political, economic, and military significance in Guatemala for the year 1953.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:
15 copies of Chronology.

JCHill:cs
REPORTER

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Encl. Desp 782
Guatemala
American Embassy
Guatemala City

# CHRONOLOGY OF 1953 EVENTS

Jan 1 — Guatemala's 1952 imports decreased 6.3% by value from 1951, exports increased 15%. Import tonnage was down 8.4% and export volume 2.8%.

Jan 5 — National Agrarian Department issues bulletin warning newspapers that publishing "false information" about the Agrarian Reform will be punished, presumably by fine; order later withdrawn as newspapermen protest.

Jan 6 — President Jacobo ARBENZ Guzmán signs decree expropriating first private lands under Agrarian Reform Law.

Jan 7 — President Arbenz declares Agrarian Reform is country's basic problem at first Cabinet meeting of year.

Jan 12 — Minister of Economy (FANJUL) denies government is thinking of expropriating urban property; says it is trying to develop capitalistic, non-Communist country.

Jan 12-23 — Hubert Fauntleroy JULIAN, the "Black Eagle of Harlem" and arms buyer for Guatemala, returns to Guatemala.

Jan 14 — National Peace Committee addresses message to President Truman asking for commutation of death sentences of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, U.S. atomic spies.

Jan 14 — U.S.-owned IRCA railroad notifies SAMF railroad workers' union that its November 28, 1952 proposals for new labor contract, including a 50% wage rise, are unacceptable; appeals to courts.

Jan 16 — The Cominform Journal, "For a Lasting Peace; For a People's Democracy," carries article by FORTUNY on PGT's December 1952 Congress; thus reaffirms PGT's ties with Cominform.

Jan 16-18 — Congressional elections result in victory of Administration candidates in 29 of 32 seats at issue; defeat of José Manuel Fortuny, Secretary General of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo, as Administration candidate in Department of Guatemala; election of Carlos Manuel PELLECER, PGT leader and Administration candidate, in Department of Escuintla.

Jan 17 — A Guatemalan landowner, Ernesto LEAL Peréz, appeals to Supreme Court to set aside Agrarian Reform decree expropriating his property; this poses first case testing constitutionality of provisional Agrarian Reform Law denying access to courts.

Jan 19 Agricultural workers in Departments of Jutiapa and Escuintla began seizure of private lands before they are awarded to them under the Agrarian Reform Law; incidents stimulated by Communist labor unions and continue until late March.

Jan 20 Two hundred demonstrate before U.S. Embassy to congratulate President Eisenhower on his inauguration.

Jan 24 Anti-Communist civic organizations announce formation of Partido Demócrata Anticomunista Cristiana.

Jan 26 Lubor ZAMLAR, Assistant Czech Commercial Attaché in Mexico, arrives in Guatemala and establishes himself here.

Jan 27 Twenty-seven Deputies address telegram to UN Human Rights Committee protesting arrest of Dr. Alberto CARNEVALI, Venezuelan politician, by Venezuelan authorities.

Jan 30 Guatemalan Ambassador to the U.S. (TORIELLO) in a press interview here criticizes U.S. periodicals belonging to "great trusts" for "distorting" the situation about Guatemala.

Feb 3 Supreme Court in 4-1 decision grants Ernesto Leal Perez, landowner, temporary injunction against application of a government decree expropriating portions of his land under Agrarian Reform Law; thus tentatively refused to endorse constitutionality of Agrarian Reform provision barring appeals to the court.

Feb 3 CGTG Executive Committee requests Congress to remove Supreme Court Justices who voted for injunction.

Feb 3 CGTG initiates semi-annual collection of funds for WFTU and CTAL.

Feb 4 Press reports military staffs of other Central American countries exchanging views on military plan for combating Communism for presentation at May 2 meeting of Organization of Central American States (ODECA).

Feb 6 Congress removes four of five Supreme Court Justices for "manifest incapacity" in granting temporary injunction restraining Agrarian Reform authorities in Leal Perez case; elects pro-Administration figures to the vacancies.

Feb 7 CGTG organizes demonstration of several hundred supporting Congressional removal of Supreme Court. President Arbenz reviews demonstration; promises Agrarian Reform will be carried out "come what may, cost what it may."

Feb 9 Some 4,000 persons demonstrate against Congress' removal of Supreme Court; police fire on crowd, killing one and wounding four; arrest 60.

Feb 9 Ministry of Economy and Labor announces approval of a $1.25 minimum wage for textile workers, effective in 60 days after publication.

Feb 10 Rumor spreads through Guatemala City that Cabinet had decided to expel Msgr. Mariano ROSSELL y Arellano, Archbishop of Guatemala; crowds gather in his support; government spokesmen deny rumor.

Feb 16 Minister of Interior (CHARNAUD MacDonald) summons foreign correspondents, tells them although government intends to maintain freedom of expression it would use every legal means to check "falsehoods."

Feb 17 Communist PGT reopens the "Jacobo Sanchéz" party cadre and indoctrination school closed in 1950 by the authorities.

Feb 17 First private land expropriated under Agrarian Reform Law handed over to farm workers.

Feb 19 PGT's newspaper Octubre attacks Zionism, reflecting Moscow's accusations that certain Jewish doctors attempted to kill Soviet officials.

Feb 20-22 National Conference in Defense of Rights of Youth takes place under sponsorship of the AJDG, FUD, CGTG, CNCG and other Communist-oriented groups.

Feb 21 Congress passes bill increasing import duties on some 400 "luxury" items to finance Four Year Development Plan, effective February 28.

Feb 21 U.S.-Guatemalan contract for maintenance of U.S. Air Mission expires,

Feb 25 Colonel Rogelio CRUZ Wer, Director of the Guardia Civil, sends circular to police warning them to side with "proletarian masses."

Feb 26 President Arbenz orders expropriation under Agrarian Reform Law of 234,000 acres of the United Fruit Company's Pacific Coast property around Tiquisate by upholding the National Agrarian Council's expropriation order.

Mar 1 President Arbenz delivers Annual Message to Congress; says Agrarian Reform has divided nation between those wholly with the 1944 Revolution and those wholly opposed to it, with no place for a middle ground.

Mar 1 GuillermoOVANDO Arriola (PAR) elected President of Congress.

Mar 4-10 President Arbenz, a group of 31 Deputies, and the Communist PGT send Soviets messages of Condolence on Stalin's death.

Mar 9 Guatemalan Congress elects its Committees; re-elects Víctor Manuel GUTIERREZ (Communist, PGT) Chairman of Special Committee on Agrarian Reform; José Alberto CARDOZA (PGT), Special Committee on Labor Code Reform.

Mar 9 Press announces National Federation of Textile Industry has affiliated with the WFTU's International Union of Textile Syndicates; apparently first instance in which a Guatemalan union has affiliated directly with a WFTU body.

Mar 12 Communist PGT exhibits Soviet film "The Fall of Berlin" in Guatemala City theater.

Mar 12 Guatemalan Congress observes moment of silence in homage to Joseph V. Stalin, deceased Soviet Premier.

Mar 13 Congress re-elects Supreme Court it elected in February for four-year term.

Mar 13 Major Alfonso MARTINEZ, Chief of the National Agrarian Department, tells reporters government will not tolerate Agrarian Reform to be carried out in anarchic fashion, says he has named "vigilantes" to curb disorders. He is promptly attacked by the CNCG.

Mar 13 Congressional decree authorizes government to issue $20 million in bonds to finance Four Year [illegible].

Mar 14 Carlos Enrique DIAZ, Chief of Armed Forces, takes annual oath of loyalty to Congress; says Armed Forces are not "Fourth Branch" of government but subordinate to other three.

Mar 18 Guatemalan Supreme Court rejects United Fruit Company's appeal against Agrarian Reform Expropriation of 234,000 acres at Tiquisate and its Los Angeles farm.

Mar 18 President Arbenz calls meeting to work out compromise between Martínez and labor leaders on Agrarian Reform.

Mar 19 Alianza Femenina Guatemalteca (AFG), Communist-front women's organization, holds meeting jointly with CGTG for market women, offers to support their demands in apparent attempt to wean them away from anti-Communist stand.

Mar 19 Major Alfonso Martínez, Chief of the National Agrarian Department, presents cabinet series of amendments to Agrarian Reform Law, one of which would eliminate union representatives from Departmental Agrarian Committees thus placing them completely under his control.

Mar 20 Víctor Manuel Gutiérrez, Mario MORALES Vielman of the SAMF, and Alfredo Alejandro GOMEZ to depart as Guatemalan delegates to the CTAL Congress in Santiago, Chile.

Mar 21-24 CGTG holds "National Conference of the Labor Press" to inaugurate the CGTG's Unidad.

Mar 22 First International Conference in Defense of Rights of Youth at Vienna attended by Bernardo LEMUS, Communist of the Alianza de la Juventud Democrática de Guatemala (AJDG), Ricardo RAMIREZ of the Frente Universitario Democrático, and Rodolfo ROMERO.

Mar 25 PAR issues bulletin advocating Guatemala's withdrawal from the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) where El Salvador wishes to discuss means to control Communist infiltration.

Mar 26 Congressional decree cancels "Order of Quetzal" awarded to Spruille BRADEN, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State. Cancellation followed his speech at Dartmouth College advocating strong measures against Communist menace in Guatemala.

Mar 26 Honduras notifies Guatemala of its denunciation of the 1923 Central American Agreements signed in Washington; Costa Rica and El Salvador had denounced them in 1932.

Mar 29 Band of some 200 men stage uprising in Salamá, take possession of town for seventeen hours until troops arrive.

Mar 29 Tax Court Judge attaches IRCA railroad property for alleged non-payment of $3,500,000 in "charity" taxes over past 20 years.

Mar 29-Apr 5 Some 100 persons, including leaders of students' anti-Communist organizations, jailed for alleged complicity in Salamá uprising; Carlos SIMONS, Juan CORDOVA Cerna, and other anti-Communist leaders go into exile.

Apr 1 Guatemala addresses note to Secretary General of UN alleging Guatemala is threatened by aggression from abroad.

Apr 4 Guatemala withdraws from the ODECA.

Apr 6 Some 300 Roman Catholic campesinos attack two Protestant chapels in Alatenango and kill minister with machete in one of first outbreaks of religious violence in recent years.

Apr 7 Tax Court lifts attachment of IRCA railroad property in "charity tax" case.

Apr 7 Group of market women taken for interview with President Arbenz by Communist leaders Gutiérrez, Pellecer and Virgilio GUERRA.

Apr 13 Foreign Ministry addresses note to British Minister (Gallierne) protesting inclusion of Belize in proposed British West Indian Federation.

Apr 13 Government contracts with Westinghouse Corporation of U.S. to make study for 28,000 kw. government hydro-electric plant at Jurún.

Apr 15 Minister of Communications (ALDANA Sandoval) says four-year highway program to cost $60 million.

Apr 15 Congress passes resolution asking other American Congresses to support Guatemala's protest against inclusion of Belize in British West Indian Federation.

Apr 15 Guatemalan Army officers, including Colonel Rodolfo SANCHEZ, brother of Minister of Defense, charged with evasion of customs duties in importation of merchandise through Guatemala City Airport.

Apr 16 Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras sign "Declaration of San José" affirming their intent to continue ODECA, inviting Guatemala to rejoin.

Apr 20 Press reports that Ministry of Finance had interpreted 1944 Investment Income Tax Law to apply higher rates.

Apr 21 Francisco Fernando FERNANDEZ Foncea replaces Alvaro Hugo SALGUERO as Secretary General of the PAR.

Apr 25-28 John Moors CABOT, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, visits Guatemala.

Apr 27 Executive sends Congress draft amendments to Agrarian Reform Law, one removing union representatives from Departmental Agrarian Committees.

Apr 29 Official Diario de Centro América publishes resumé of 1,000 pages of "testimony" on Salamá uprising, implicating Juan Córdova Cerna as principal conspirator, charging United Fruit Company had provided $64,000 through Carlos Simons, and alleging Colonel Alberto FUNES, Salvadoran Ambassador, had delivered Guatemalans guns.

May 1 Guatemalan Institute of Social Security (IGSS) inaugurates maternity and infant care program.

May 1 CGTG stages Annual International Labor Day Parade; President Arbenz publicly embraces Gutiérrez and Pellecer after Gutiérrez speaks of "glorious Soviet Union."

May 5 César MONTENEGRO Paniagua, Communist CGTG leader, denounces activities of Alberto C. VIALE, Argentine Labor Attaché on behalf of ATLAS labor organization.

May 5 Press announces appointment of Ignacio Humberto ORTIZ, ex-Communist Deputy, as Director of Federated School in Escuintla.

May 6 Foreign Ministry issues bulletin stating Guatemala is member of OAS but is not bound by OAS Charter as it has not deposited ratification.

May 7 Six officers granted 34 acres of farmland under Agrarian Reform Law.

May 16 Communist PGT launches campaign for $5,000 to finance a daily paper to be called Tribuna Popular

May 16-17 Central Committee of Communist PGT meets, approves Fortuny's report setting as party's goals (a) Agrarian Reform, (b) struggle against U.S. companies, and (c) struggle against domestic reaction.

May 16 Colonel Enrique Díaz, Chief of Armed Forces, leaves for England at head of Guatemalan delegation to coronation of Elizabeth II; later tours continent for two months.

May 17 Ministry of Economy reduces ratio of required purchases of domestic to imported flour from 70% to 50%.

May 18 Congress ratifies agreement with International Labor Organization by which latter is to send labor statistics expert.

May 18-20 Hubert F. Julian, "The Black Eagle of Harlem," revisits Guatemala for which he serves as arms procurement agent.

May 21 U.S.-Guatemalan contract for maintenance of Army Mission expires.

May 22 Communist PGT launches campaign for lower rents.

May 24 Governor of Department of Escuintla (Captain Terencio GUILLEN) presides at "Peace" Rally in government federated school.

June 1-4 Dora FRANCO y Franco, Secretary General of the AFG, Elena Leiva de HOLST, María B. CASTILLO, and Carmen R. de CASTELLANOS, leave for Communist-front World Congress of Women in Copenhagen.

June 2 Minister of Communications (Colonel Aldana Sandoval) announces Guatemala will resume Pan American Highway construction in July without U.S. assistance.

June 4 President appoints Humberto GONZALEZ Juárez, PAR politician, as his Private Secretary, a position vacant since Major Martínez was appointed Chief of the National Agrarian Department on July 1, 1952.

June 8 Nineteen Deputies and other personalities address letter to President Eisenhower asking suspension of the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted U.S. atomic spies.

June 11 Labor Court appoints Conciliation Board in IRCA-SAMF labor dispute.

June 11-12 Guatemalan delegation to World Peace Council meeting consisting of Lt. Col. Carlos PAZ Tejada, ex-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major Marco Antonio FRANCO Chacón, PAR Deputy, and Oscar Edmundo PALMA, Communist PGT Deputy, leaves for Budapest.

June 14 Ex-President Juan José AREVALO returns to Guatemala after slightly more than a year's absence.

June 16 Some 80 persons demonstrate in front of U.S. Embassy on behalf of the Rosenbergs.

June 17 National Agrarian Department's records at completion of first year of Agrarian Reform show over 1 million acres awarded to campesinos, of which 375,000 acres were formerly private property, 705,000 formerly national farm land.

June 18 Congress ratifies new international wheat agreement, published in official gazette on July 1.

June 18-20 Pro-Communist slate headed by Jaime ZAVALA as Secretary General wins elections in SAMF railway union over Arturo MORALES Cubas' faction.

June 19 Congress passes amendments to Agrarian Reform Law after its Special Committee on Agrarian Reform, headed by Gutiérrez has redrafted them to put union representatives in majority of Departmental Agrarian Committees instead of eliminating them as proposed by the Administration

June 20 Foreign Minister (OSEGUEDA) denies to press that Guatemalan Government has invited President ULATE of Costa Rica to visit country as latter's official claimed; five days later Costa Rica declares Colonel Rafael O'MEANY, Guatemalan Ambassador, persona non grata.

June 20-25 Independent press criticizes U.S. for "defeat" in Korea.

June 23 Ministry of Finance removes 100% surcharge on goods imported from USSR and Communist China on grounds that their exports to Guatemala were less than amount required by law putting surcharge on countries with unfavorable balance of trade with Guatemala.

June 23 Guatemala recognizes new Colombian Government of General Gustavo ROJAS Pinilla.

June 29 Official Gazette promulgates $73.4 million budget for 1953-54, an increase of $10 million over initial 1952-53 budget, $8 million more than revised 1952-53 budget.

July 1 Production Development Institute (INFOP) takes over sugar and coffee mills and other installations of National Farms Administration whose affairs wound up on previous day.

July 1 Department of Military Welfare created in Ministry of Defense as part of program to satisfy military personnel.

July 2 Guatemalan Government signs $4.8 million contract under which Morrison-Knudsen, U.S. contractors, are to build a national port on the Atlantic at Santo Tomás in two years.

July 3 Cominform Journal of Bucharest again carries article by Fortuny, Secretary General of the PGT.

July 4 U.S. Embassy holds traditional reception, but President Arbenz does not attend as he did in 1952.

July 4-5 Guillermo CV.NDO Arriola, President of Congress, is elected President of Department of Guatemala "Peace" Committee.

July 7 Congress enacts Organic Law of the National Agrarian Bank with capitalization of $10 million to provide credit for beneficiaries of Agrarian Reform Law; promulgated on July 16.

July 7 Communist PGT announces that $5,000 goal to start a daily, Tribuna Popular, has been reached; campaign to continue until $15,000 reached.

July 10 ODECA meets in Managua and passes strong anti-Communist "Managua Resolution."

July 11-12 Renovación Nacional (RN) Congress re-elects Jaime DIAZ Rozzotto as Secretary General and reaffirms unrestricted support of President Arbenz.

July 14 Ex-President Arévalo leaves for Chile after a month's visit to Guatemala.

July 14 Eliseo MARTINEZ Zelada, ex-Private Secretary to Arévalo, appointed Ambassador to Bolivia.

July 15 Police arrest Luis VALLADARES y Aycinena, Secretary General of the Partido Unificación Anticomunista, the leading anti-Communist political party, on charges of complicity in the March 29 Salamá uprising.

July 16 Employees of U.S.-owned Empresa Electrica power and light company go on strike after protracted negotiations for a 37% wage raise broke down; government appoints Alfonso BAUER Paiz as "Interventor" to take charge of company's operations and restore service. He quickly begins examination of company's books.

July 16 Government allots $100,000 for 1953-54 for Agricultural Research under a National Agricultural Research Center which would include the Instituto Agropecuario Nacional, the Guatemalan-U.S. Research Center.

July 17 Foreign Ministry announces Roberto ALVARADO Fuentes, President of Congress in 1951-52, has been named Ambassador to Mexico replacing Colonel Ramiro GEREDA Asturias, transferred as Ambassador to Panama.

July 18 "Nicaraguan Partisans of Democracy," Communist-infiltrated anti-Somoza organization, elects new officers headed by Dr. Leonte PALLAIS Tiffer as Secretary General.

July 21 Press reports appointment of Miguel Angel ASTURIAS, poet, as Guatemalan Ambassador to El Salvador, Colonel Rafael O'NEANY as Ambassador to Ecuador, and Major Adolfo GARCIA Asturias as Ambassador to Cuba.

July 21 Congress enacts law suspending for three months all legal action against tenants renting for less than $50 a month, thus bringing fruition to campaign of Communist-organized tenants' league.

July 21 Congress approves budget increase of $1.8 million to finance first National Fair since 1941.

July 21-25 Rafael TISCHLER, Communist Secretary General of teachers' union, STEG, and Eugenio ARAGON represent Guatemala at World Congress of Teachers in Vienna. Tischler goes on to visit USSR, returning in November.

July 23 Labor Court reaffirms that strike by the employees of the Empresa Eléctrica was legal.

July 24-Aug 19 Guatemalan delegation attends Bucharest Third World Youth Congress and World Youth Festival, including Edelberto TORRES Rivas, Julio René ESTEVEZ, José Alberto QUIÑONEZ, Luis MORALES Chúa, Ricardo MARTINEZ, Glavio ROJAS Leiva, Noel MEJIA Pallais, Enrique DARDON, Luis A. SANTOS, Julio R. CASTEÑEDA, José E. TORRES, Jorge Mario URDULIA, José SOLIS Rojas, and 12-member police marimba band. Some later go on to Third Warsaw Students' Congress in September and tour USSR and Communist China. Luis Cardoza y Aragón, ex-Minister to Moscow, also left for Bucharest Youth Festival.

July 25 CGTG holds a "Labor Peace Conference" in National Lottery Building; Ovando Arriola, President of Congress, attacks U.S. action in Korea.

July 27 Congress passes bill authorizing Finance Ministry to issue short term treasury letters up to 10% of budgeted income in order to compensate for periodical fluctuations in income which leave Treasury short of cash.

July 31 National Peace Committee stages rally to celebrate Korean Armistice; Communists and government speakers hail it as defeat of imperialists.

July 31 Alfonso BAUER Paiz appointed President of the National Agrarian Bank; Efraín CASTILLO representative of the Monetary Board; Ernesto CAPUANO representative of the National Agrarian Department; Felicito CARRANZA representative of the CNCG; and José Luis CACEROS representative of the CGTG.

Aug 1 Ministry of Economy authorizes shipment of 200,000 quintals of corn to Mexico and El Salvador.

Aug 3 New Superior Defense Council installed; consists of officers identified with Administration.

Aug 4 Carlos ALVARADO Jérez, Communist Director of the National Radio Station TGW, appointed Director General of Radio Broadcasting.

Aug 7 Augusto Charnaud MacDonald, Minister of Interior, becomes sole Secretary General of PRG in shake-up of Executive Committee in which Juan José TEJADA Barrientos, leader of wing opposed to unconditional collaboratior ith Communists, is expelled.

Aug 7 Press reports government has assigned building for CNCG headquarters.

Aug 7 Conciliation of IRCA-SAMF dispute breaks down; union obtains ruling for strike vote to be taken.

Aug 8-9 Communist PGT holds First National Conference on Organization, claims party has more than doubled in size since December, 1952, is composed of 50% workers, 29% campesinos, and 21% middle-class persons.

Aug 12 PUA and other anti-Communist organizations publish manifesto supporting U.S. in Korea.

Aug 12 Press reports teachers' "Court of Honor" to try case of a schoolteacher is composed of Víctor Manuel Gutiérrez, Mario SILVA Jonama, both Communists, and three others.

Aug 12 National Agrarian Department notifies United Fruit Company of National Agrarian Council order expropriating 174,000 acres of its Atlantic Coast Bananera Division. Company lodges appeal to President whose confirmation is needed before order is final.

Aug 12 All Administration parties, including Communist PGT and the CGTG and CNCG, the National Peace Committee and women's and youth's organizations petition President and UN to consider definitive peace in Korea and seating Communist China in UN.

Aug 14 Five Cubans who took refuge in Guatemala's Havana Embassy after the July 26 uprising against the Cuban Government arrive in Guatemala; Guatemalan Communists carry on campaign against Batista Government with labor and mass organizations carrying petitions to Cuban Embassy.

Aug 15 Communist PGT begins publication of daily Tribuna Popular.

Aug 18 CGTG Executive Committee resolves to request affiliation with WFTU.

Aug 20 Official Gazette promulgates law passed by Congress on July 21 declaring highway building of national urgency, providing for the expropriation of rights-of-way, and permitting collection of tolls to finance construction.

Aug 22 Government farm "Concepción" handed over to workers under Agrarian Reform Law in presence of Government and Communist officials. Fortuny, Secretary General of Communist PGT, describes in Tribuna Popular of August 26 how a year's work here overcame workers' reluctance to benefit from Agrarian Reform.

Aug 24 In heated debate in Congress Alvaro Hugo Salguero, PAR Deputy, is charged with being principal author of the plot resulting in the imprisonment in July of Deputy-elect Ricardo BARRERA on basis of forged letter implicating him in Salamá uprising. He counter-charges others used bribery, intimidation, and gravestone voting to get Barrera and René RUBIN elected.

Aug 24 During Congressional debate José Alberto CARDOZA, Communist PGT Deputy, says Communism "will finally govern the country."

Aug 26 Manuel Otilio HASBUN and 13 other Salvadorans arrested by their government in 1952 arrive in Guatemala as refugees after Salvadoran authorities have expelled them; they are received by the CGTG.

Aug 26 Bloody clash between farm workers at Yepocapa brings charges from PAR that Communist PGT is trying to monopolize Agrarian Reform. Flare-up between parties is quickly extinguished by a joint statement of Fortuny of PGT and FERNANDEZ Foncea of PAR on September 3 denying friction exists.

Aug 27 Gutiérrez receives cable from WFTU accepting the CGTG's affiliation.

Aug 27-29 CGTG-sponsored "National Conference on the High Cost of Living" requests denouncement of unfavorable trade treaties, revision of rental law, lower gasoline and meat prices, reduction in railroad and electricity rates.

Aug 28 Department of State hands Guatemalan Ambassador (Toriello) Aide-Memoire questioning Guatemala's conduct of the expropriation of United Fruit Company's Pacific properties.

Aug 29 Tribuna Popular announces CTAL has accepted affiliation of CGTG.

Sep 1 U.S. film companies suspend shipments to Guatemala on grounds they are unwilling to pay newly imposed 2% tax on remittances.

Sep 3 Ambassador Toriello in Guatemala City press interview labels State Department's Aide-Memoire as "offensive" and "injurious to Guatemalan dignity."

Sep 9 Foreign Ministry announces Guatemalan delegation to UN General Assembly to consist of Ambassador Toriello, Eduardo CASTILLO Arriola, permanent Delegate to UN, Deputy Julio ESTRADA de la Hoz, Carlos GONZÁLEZ Orellana, head of the government information office, and others.

Sep 11 Congress approves law granting Army Commissary free-entry privileges on its imports; signed by President on September 23 despite Guatemala City merchants' protests.

Sep 11 Court of Appeals orders provisional release of Luis Valladares Y Aycinena, Secretary General of PUA, and Colonels Guillermo FLORES Avendaño and Herlindo SOLORZANO, imprisoned for alleged complicity in Salamá uprising. They tell press of torture and bad prison conditions.

Sep 12-20 "Book Fair" sponsored by Communist-infiltrated Casa de Cultura held in National Palace; Libreria del Futuro leads sales by selling Soviet publications at low prices.

Sep 14 CGTG holds "anti-intervention" demonstration before National Palace to protest State Department's August 28 Aide-Memoire on United Fruit Company expropriation.

Sep 19 National Peace Committee initiates campaign to obtain 125,000 signatures on World Peace Council's petition for negotiations between the USSR, U.S., UK, France and Communist China.

Sep 24 Official press gives heavy publicity to routine letter from Col. Hanford, Chief of U.S. Military Mission, to Chief of Guatemalan Armed Forces, praising Army review at September Independence Day celebration.

Sep 24 CGTG and Communist leaders denounce activities of Francisco MOGGIA, Argentine Labor Attaché, for meddling in a local strike on behalf of Atlas labor federation.

Sep 29 Guatemalan delegation leaving for Vienna WFTU Congress includes Gutiérrez, Leonardo CASTILLO Flores, Secretary General of CNCG; José Luis del CID of municipal workers and CGTG; Gabriel CAMEY, Communist leader of "Concepción" national farm workers; and Albino GARCIA of textile workers. José Luis RAMOS, Communist of CGTG joins delegation in Vienna.

Oct 1 Guatemalan Government grants its agrément to the appointment of the Hon. John E. Peurifoy as U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala in succession to the Hon. Rudolf E. Schoenfeld.

Oct 2 Unión Nacional de Trabajadores Libres (UNTL), small anti-Communist labor association, formed.

Oct 2 Government announces appointment of Rufino ALVARADO Mendoza as Inspector General of Labor; Hugo BARRIOS Klée, Communist, Deputy Inspector General.

Oct 3 Archbishop of Guatemala (Msgr. Mariano ROSSELL y Arellano) publicly asks for prayers on behalf of Cardinal WYSZYNSKI, Primate of Poland.

Oct 3 Ministry of Economy executive decree sets $7.50 per quintal as minimum price for sugar cane as part of its price support program.

Oct 5 Francisco Fernando FERNANDEZ Foncea, Secretary General of the PAR, states in Congress that PAR and other Administra- parties are destined to disappear into the "great world Communist movement;" states local Communist PGT is "most patriotic, most honest and most logical in the country."

Oct 5 Colonels Herlindo Solórzáno and Guillermo Flores Avendaño and Luis Valladares y Ayoinena, released anti-Communist leaders, take refuge in Central American missions and go into exile.

Oct 6 Labor Court rules that July 16 strike at the U.S.-owned Empresa Eléctrica was justified, orders company to pay 37% wage increase demanded on basis of the report of Alfonso BAUER Paiz, government "Interventor" who stated company was making large profits. Appeals Court later lowers raise to 26%.

Oct 6 Workers of U.S.-owned IRCA railroad go on strike after Labor Court and conciliation have failed to solve demands for 25% wage rises, and other benefits. On following day government appoints Alfonso Bauer Paiz as "Interventor."

Oct 8 Congress enacts law to suspend for six months court actions by property owners to collect payment on building lots, thus bringing a victory to the Communist-sponsored League of Building Lot Buyers.

Oct 9-27 Mikhail K. SAMOILOV, a Commercial Attaché of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico, visits Guatemala offering Soviet products and interviewing local personalities.

Oct 10 PAR National Council ousts Francisco Fernando Fernández Foncea as Secretary General; elects Julio ESTRADA de la Hoz to replace him.

Oct 10 José Gregorio DIAZ Loarca issues manifesto announcing formation of a "Patriotic Front" of anti-Communists.

Oct 10 Official gazette carries decree signed by President Arbenz alotting $10,000 to defray expenses of "Second Continental Congress for Democratic Lawyers."

Oct 11 Netherlands' KLM Airline inaugurates flights to Guatemala in competition with Pan American and TACA; provides means for Guatemalans to reach Europe without visas from U.S. which it over-flies.

Oct 12 Minister of Economy (Fanjul) heads Guatemalan delegation to the Second Conference of the Committee on Economic Cooperation of the Central American Ministers of Economy in San José, Costa Rica.

Oct 14 Six Deputies of the PRG headed by Emilio ZEA González, First Vice President of Congress, reported in press as resigning from the PRG in quarrel over Communist leanings of that party.

Oct 15 Congress, at proposal of Communist Deputy Carlos Manuel Pellecer, adopts resolution condemning British action in sending troops to British Guiana to thwart Communist conspiracy there.

Oct 16-18 Central Committee of Communist PGT approves report of Fortuny calling for improving the "National Democratic Front" by including labor and mass organizations as well as the Administration parties.

Oct 16-19 "Second Continental Conference of Democratic Lawyers" sponsored by Communist-controlled International Association of Democratic Lawyers held in Guatemala City; Guatemalan Minister of Interior (Charnaud MacDonald) and Guatemalan Supreme Court take active part.

Oct 17 National Peace Committee publishes messages sent to the UN protesting U.S.-Spanish military base agreement.

Oct 19 Government calls in $40,000 worth of Agrarian Reform Bonds drawn by lot for cash redemption, publicizes this as evidence bonds are sound.

Oct 20 National Agrarian Bank inaugurated; Chief of Armed Forces among those present.

Oct 20 National Fair (or "October Fair") for which $1.8 million was appropriated opens with installations incomplete; first bull fight called off as gate-crashers invade stadium.

Oct 27 Anti-Communist parties announce an "Anti-Communist Electoral Front" for November municipal elections.

Oct 31 Press reports executive decree by which fashionable government-owned residential lots were transferred to César Montenegro Paniágua, Communist Deputy, Major Marco Antonio Franco, PAR Deputy, and Mario SOSA, Chief Inspector of the National Agrarian Department, at 7 cents a square yard.

Nov 2 Government issues decree ending government seizure of the operations of the Empresa Eléctrica in effect since July 16.

Nov 4 Hon. John E. Peurifoy presents his credentials as U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala.

Nov 5 Tribuna Popular reports Gutiérrez was elected to WFTU Executive Committee and Pellecer and Victor A. LEAL to WFTU's General Council at Vienna Congress.

Nov 5 Fortuny, Secretary General of the Communist PGT, leaves for Moscow.

Nov 7 Ricardo Martínez and part of the Guatemalan youth delegation to the July Bucharest Youth Festival return to Guatemala after touring USSR.

Nov 8 Archibishop of Guatemala (Msgr. Mariano Rossell y Arellano) issues strong anti-Communist exhortation calling for "Crusade of Prayer" on behalf of persecuted church in the Soviet orbit.

Nov 10 Guatemala casts the sole vote in the OAS Council in Washington against the U.S. proposal to include an item on intervention of Communism in hemispheric affairs on the agenda of the Tenth International Conference of American States scheduled for Caracas in March, 1954. Communists and other Administration supporters label proposal "intervention" in Guatemalan affairs.

Nov 12 President Arbenz names organizing Committee, including at least seven Communists, for the "Centenary of Pedro Molina" in 1954.

Nov 17 Pan American World Airways signs new contract with aviation workers union; only major U.S. enterprise free of major difficulties in 1953.

Nov 17 Congress investigates corruption in case of Deputy Felipe DARDON alleged to have blackmailed auto parts dealer with threat of bill limiting their profits. PAR Deputy Francisco Fernando Fernández Foncea accuses Charnaud MacDonald, Minister of Interior, and others of stealing hundreds of thousands.

Nov 20-22 Municipal elections for vacancies on Guatemala City Council won by anti-Communists by narrow margin; Communist PGT elects mayors in four provincial towns for first time.

Nov 21 An Asociación Guatemalteca de Juristas Demócratas reported founded by Antonio CRUZ Franco, President of the National Peace Committee, in a press article.

Nov 23 Ministry of Economy sets 40 cents per pound as price of 1953-54 cotton as part of support plan.

Nov 24 Ex-President Arévalo returns to Guatemala to attend sister's funeral.

Nov 25 All Administration parties, the national labor and agricultural federations, and mass organizations issue joint statement opposing U.S.-sponsored proposal to discuss Communist intervention in the hemisphere at Caracas Conference.

Nov 26-28 Communist-front Alianza Femenina Guatemalteca holds its first national congress; Sra. de Arbenz states in speech she was founding member.

Nov 27 New rental law goes into effect raising rent ceilings on low and medium price housing but imposing more obligations on landlords and establishing special board not subject to courts to settle disputes.

Nov 29 Communist Tribuna Popular initiates campaign on behalf of Salvador Cayetano CARPIO, imprisoned Salvadoran leader; labor unions and mass organizations follow up with protests to President of El Salvador.

Dec 1-31 Mobs of farm workers in Department of Escuintla, stated to be Communist-incited, invade and seize farm land and property not affected by Agrarian Reform.

Dec 4 Communist-front youth organizations issue call for a "Festival of Friendship of Youth of Central America and the Caribbean" in Guatemala City in October, 1954.

Dec 8 Frente Anticomunista de Guatemaltecos en Exilio (FAGE) exile organization in San Salvador, announces its founding in advertisements in Guatemala City papers.

Dec 11 Press announces Dr. Antonio DIAZ and two other Salvadorans who broke out of a Salvadoran jail and took refuge in the Mexican Embassy have arrived in Guatemala.

Dec 13 Tribuna Popular carries letter from Communist-front World Federation of Democratic Women urging its affiliates all over the world to protest U.S. "intervention" in Guatemala.

Dec 14 Comité de Estudiantes Universitarios Anticomunistas (CEUA) publishes full-page advertisement reviving issue that Communist PGT is unconstitutional under Article 32 of the Constitution prohibiting political organizations of a "foreign or international" character.

Dec 14 Pravda of Moscow prints article supporting Guatemala's "progressive" government, warning of "imperialist" intervention.

Dec 15 Director General of Highways (Bernasconi) announces government has begun to pave Pan American Highway stretch south of capital without U.S. help.

Dec 16 Ex-President Arévalo, Ambassador-at-large, leaves Guatemala for Cuba, interviews President Batista.

Dec 17 Congress meets in Special Session to consider bill to establish Guatemala's first personal income tax and other legislation.

Dec 18 Congress removes Virgilio ZAPATA Mendía from Supreme Court after earlier in the day he and Jaime Diaz Rozzotto, Secretary General of the Presidency, had threatened a Deputy with submachine guns in an internal quarrel in the Renovación Nacional which had removed them from their party offices.

Dec 18 Lt. Col. Vincente LEON y Léon and Dr. Salvador VILASECA y Forné, Cubans who had taken refuge in the Guatemalan Embassy in Havana, arrive in Guatemala.

Dec 19 CGTG sponsors "Day of Solidarity With the Viet-Namese People;" ceremony in Government school.

Dec 23 Congress removes Alfonso ORANTES (PRG) as President of National Electoral Board for "notorious negligence," replaces him with Edmundo GUERRERO (PAR).

Dec 24 "House of Liberty," Guatemala City headquarters of anti-Communist organizations, sacked by unknown persons.

Dec 27 Humberto HERNANDEZ Cobos, Civil Registrar and Ernesto Capuano, of National Bank leave for Vienna to attend Communist-sponsored World Congress of Democratic Lawyers.

Dec 29 PUA and CEUA announce formation of a new Frente Anticomunista Nacional.

Dec 31 Foreign Office announces transfer of Ambassador Ismail GONZALEZ Arévalo, career diplomat, from Argentina to become Guatemalan Ambassador before the new government of President Figueres in Costa Rica.

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